

slighter grounds. It looks as if it might prove to be a geographical variety of *H. osculans*.

My specimen, ♂, a type (*Jelski*), Maraynioc, Peru, was presented to me by M. Taczanowski.

XXXVI.—*Notes on the Specimens in the Berlin Museum collected by Hemprich and Ehrenberg.* By H. E. DRESSER, F.L.S. &c., and W. T. BLANFORD, F.R.S. &c.

IN September 1873 we were working conjointly at the genus *Saxicola*, and arranged to spend our holidays on the Continent together and utilize our spare hours in examining the types in several of the continental museums. Most of our time we spent in Berlin; and when working in the museum in that city we thought that a critical examination of the types of Ehrenberg, being the collection made by Hemprich and Ehrenberg, which is deposited in the Berlin Museum, might prove of use; we therefore carefully examined them. We may here state that we took with us a large series of Warblers (*Sylviidæ*) and Chats (*Saxicolidæ*) for comparison; amongst the latter were most of Canon Tristram's types. As almost all ornithologists are doubtless aware, descriptions of the various species considered to be new were published by Ehrenberg, after the death of Hemprich, in Hemprich and Ehrenberg's '*Symbolæ Physicæ. Aves*' (Berlin, 1829), the descriptions being chiefly given in footnotes to this work. The pages are not numbered; thus the following references are only to the folios:—

LANIUS NUBICUS, Licht., Ehr. fol. *e*. The type agrees closely with Sharpe and Dresser's plate in the '*Birds of Europe*,' part ii.

LANIUS ISABELLINUS, Ehr. fol. *e*. In the collection are three specimens from Gumfudde and one from Arabia, all in winter dress, none having the red of the head developed.

ARDEA IBIS, Hasselquist, Ehr. fol. *l*. One specimen, No. 74, from Nubia, is an immature bird of *Ardea bubulcus*, No. 10132 in Gray's '*Hand-list*.'

LEPTERODATIS FLAVIROSTRIS SYRIACÆ, Ehr. fol. *m.* One specimen, No. 92, from Syria, is referable to *Ardea alba*, Linn., Gray, Hand-list, no. 10108. It measures—bill from gape 6·0 inches, wing 16·0, tail 6·5, tarsus 7·0.

NYCTICORAX BREVIPES, Ehr. fol. *m.* One specimen, No. 146, from Arabia, is an immature bird of *Nycticorax griseus*, L., Gray, Hand-list, no. 10171.

CUCULUS PICA, Ehr. fol. *r* = *Coccytes jacobinus* (Bodd.), Gray, Hand-list, no. 9082. There is one specimen, No. 81, from Nubia.

CENTROPUS SUPERCILIOSUS, Ehr. fol. *r.* Gray, Hand-list, no. 8949. There are four specimens in the collection—No. 12 from Abyssinia, No. 13 from Arabia, No. 14 from Abyssinia, and No. 15 from the same locality, but in young plumage, lacking the stripes on the breast, where it is washed with rufous, and has imperfect dark transverse markings towards the ends of the quills.

PICUS SYRIACUS, Ehr. fol. *r.* Gray, Hand-list, no. 8556. Two specimens from Syria agree closely with Sharpe and Dresser's plate (in part ix. 'Birds of Europe') of the Syrian Woodpecker in immature plumage. One is greatly faded. They are marked by Lichtenstein *Picus fuliginosus*.

PICUS ÆTHIOPICUS, Ehr. fol. *r* = *Picus nubicus*, Gm., Gray, Hand-list, no. 8698. There is one specimen only, No. 211, from Abyssinia.

PICUS HEMPRICHII, Ehr. fol. *r.* Gray, Hand-list, no. 8650. Two specimens, Nos. 212 and 213, from Abyssinia, both females, the former measuring—culmen 0·72 inch, wing 3·1, tail 1·55, tarsus 0·7; and the latter—culmen 0·69, wing 3·1, tail 1·55, tarsus 0·69.

MUSCICAPA GRISOLA. Ehrenberg, fol. *r.* refers to varieties of this species; but after a careful examination of the specimens we could detect no differences, except such as are found in our common European species.

MUSCICAPA LAIS, Ehr. fol. *t* = *Erythrosterina parva* (Bechst.),

Gray, Hand-list, no. 4839. Two specimens, Nos. 8 and 37, both from Arabia, are young males.

CORACIAS HABESSINICA, Ehr. fol. z, = *Coracias abyssinica*, Bodd., Gray, Hand-list, no. 905. Two specimens, Nos. 4 and 15, are from Abyssinia; and one, No. 19, is from Egypt. Young examples from South Africa in the Berlin Museum are labelled *Coracias loquax*, Licht.

CORVUS SCAPULARIS, var. ÆTHIOPS, Ehr. fol. z, appears to be merely a brown-headed variety of *Corvus scapulatus*, Daud., Gray, Hand-list, no. 6224. This variety is also *C. phæocephalus*, Cab., Gray, Hand-list, no. 6226. There are three specimens collected by Hemprich and Ehrenberg, all from Abyssinia. Two of these measure as follows:—

	Culmen. in.	Wing. in.	Tail. in.	Tarsus. in.
No. 29	2·4	13·75	7	2·37
94	2·45	14·5	7·3	2·55

PICUS STRIDENS, Ehr. fol. z, = *Garrulus atricapillus*, Geoff. St.-Hil.; and the type agrees closely with the plate of this species in Dresser's 'Birds of Europe,' part xx. (August 1873).

PYRRHOCORAX ALPINUS, var. DIGITATA, Ehr. fol. z. One specimen from Bischerra measures culmen 1·4 inch, wing 11·0, tail 7·0, tarsus 1·85, and otherwise agrees closely with the ordinary form of *P. alpinus*.

ORIOLOUS GALBULA, var. VIRESCENS, Ehr. fol. z. One male and two females from Arabia do not differ from the ordinary form of *Oriolus galbula*.

BUCCEROS FORSKÅLII, Ehr. fol. z, is scarcely distinguishable from *B. nasutus*, but appears to be larger, and has a longer wing. There are three specimens in the collection, which measure as follows:—

	Culmen. in.	Wing. in.	Tail. in.	Tarsus. in.
No. 15620 (type). Arabia	5·0	9·5	9·0	1·75
18. Abyssinia	5·0	9·5	9·0	1·65
19. do.	4·75	9·75	8·5	1·6

BUCEROS ERYTHORHYNCHUS, var. *LEUCOPAREUS*, Ehr. fol. *aa*. The type, No. 15618, measures culmen 3·5 inch, wing 7·0, tail 8·2, tarsus 1·55. It is marked as having been obtained in Abyssinia. Another specimen of *B. erythrorhynchus* (No. 26), collected in Arabia by Hemprich and Ehrenberg, is labelled *B. melanoleucus*, Licht.

BUCEROS HEMILEUCUS, Ehr. fol. *aa*, is, we consider, nothing but the female of *B. forskålii*. The type (No. 20) is from Abyssinia, and measures, culmen 3·8 inches, wing 8·75, tail 7·8, tarsus 1·65.

BUCEROS HEMPRICHII, Ehr. fol. *aa*, = *Buceros limbatus*, Rüpp., Gray, Hand-list, no. 7899, Ehrenberg's name having priority (cf. Blanf. Geol. & Zool. Abyss. p. 326). The type is from Abyssinia, and is also labelled *B. semirufus*, Licht.

TURDUS MUSICUS, var. *PLANICEPS*, Ehr. fol. *aa*, does not differ from the ordinary form of *Turdus musicus*.

SAXICOLA MONACHA, Rüpp. fol. *aa*. All the specimens collected by Hemprich and Ehrenberg are labelled *L. gracilis*, Licht.

SAXICOLA XANTHOMELÆNA, Ehr. fol. *aa*, is the eastern form of *Saxicola rufa*, and stands as *Saxicola melanoleuca*. There are two specimens from Nubia, both of which are labelled *S. albicilla*, v. Müll. This species is figured by Dresser in part xxv. of the 'Birds of Europe.'

SAXICOLA MORIO, Ehr. fol. *aa*, is a good species, being the eastern form of *Saxicola leucomela*, differing in having the under surface of the wing black and the crissum white. The specimens are from Upper Egypt and Arabia.

SAXICOLA HEMPRICHII, Ehr. fol. *aa*, differs from *Pratincola rubicola* in having more white on the tail; but this character is extremely variable, as in some specimens it extends from the base to within one third of the end of the tail, whereas in others it is barely visible.

SAXICOLA AURITA, var. *LIBYCA*, Ehr. fol. *aa*, = *Saxicola stapa*, L. (*S. aurita* auctt.)*. There are two specimens—a

* [Cf. *antea*, p. 302, where this view is demurred to.—ED.]

young female from Ghenneh, obtained in October, and a male obtained at Dongola in April.

SAXICOLA ROSTRATA, Ehr. fol. *aa*. The type of this species is not in the collection; but Ehrenberg describes it as differing from *S. ænanthe* in having a larger and longer bill. Amongst the specimens of *S. ænanthe* there are many specimens from the localities indicated having bills answering to Ehrenberg's description.

SYLVIA SEMIRUFA, Ehr. fol. *bb*. Of this species there are eight specimens from Lebanon and one from Egypt, all of which agree with *Ruticilla rufiventris*, Vieill., Gray, Hand-list, no. 3161, but are, as a rule, smaller in size.

CURRUCA STENTOREA, Ehr. fol. *bb*, will stand as *Acrocephalus stentoreus* (Ehr.), and is an excellent species. There are two specimens, both labelled *Turdus stentor*, H. & Ehr., one from Ins-Rásfakil and the other from Arabia, which measure as follows:—

	Culmen. in.	Wing. in.	Tail. in.	Tarsus. in.
No. 305. Arabia	0·95	3·15	3	1·08
306. Ins-Rásfakil	0·93	3·35	3·15	1·16

CURRUCA PALLIDA, Ehr., *CURRUCA ANDROMEDA*, Ehr., and *CURRUCA MAXILLARIS*, Ehr. fol. *bb*., are all referable to the species commonly known as *Hypolais elæica*, Lind., Gray, Hand-list, no. 3028, which will stand as *Hypolais pallida* (Ehr.). There are two specimens from Egypt, three from Nubia, three from Dongola, and one from Embukohl, the measurements of which are—culmen 0·5 to 0·56 inch, wing 2·4 to 2·6, tail 1·9 to 2·06, tarsus 0·82 to 0·88.

CURRUCA FAMULA, Ehr. fol. *bb*, = *Drymæca inquieta*, Rüpp., Gray, Hand-list, no. 2751. There are in the collection three specimens—one from Egypt, and two from Arabia.

CURRUCA VIRIDULA, Ehr. fol. *bb*. There are five specimens, three of which have rather longer wings than the others, which are undistinguishable from the common Willow-Wren (*Phylloscopus trochilus*); and we cannot see that any differs

specifically from that species. The measurements are as follows :—

	Wing. in.	Tail. in.	Tarsus. in.
No. 231	2·64	1·97	0·78
395	2·65	2·02	0·84
396	2·42	1·92	0·78
428	2·75	2·18	0·75
429	2·75	1·97	0·83

CURRUCA THEBAICA, Ehr. fol. *bb*. The type of this species is missing. Dr. Cabanis informed us that he believed it to be the female of his *Melizophilus nigricapillus*.

CURRUCA MOMUS, Ehr. fol. *bb*. Differs merely from *Sylvia melanocephala* in being somewhat smaller in size, and can scarcely be considered distinct. Dr. Cabanis's *Melizophilus nigricapillus* (Mus. Hein. i. p. 35, no. 231) is founded on these specimens, collected by Hemprich and Ehrenberg, the measurements of which are as follows :—

	Culmen. in.	Wing. in.	Tail. in.	Tarsus. in.
No. 252. Nubia	0·5	2·1	2·08	
253. „	0·5	2·22	2·13	
435. Syria	0·51	2·08		0·72

IXUS XANTHOPYGOS, Ehr. fol. *bb*, is a good species. In the collection there are three old and one young bird from Arabia.

MERULA SYRIACA, Ehr. fol. *bb*. We could not find the type of this species.

SAXICOLA EURYMELÆNA, Ehr. fol. *bb*, = *Saxicola melanoleuca*, Güld. There are three specimens, all from Syria.

SAXICOLA LIBANOTICA, Ehr. fol. *bb*, = *Saxicola aenanthæ*. There are nine specimens, from Syria, Arabia, and Palestine.

CURRUCA GALACTODES, var. SYRIACA, Ehr. fol. *bb*. Amongst the specimens of this bird collected in Syria by Hemprich and Ehrenberg, three in number (Nos. 667 and 310 from Beyrout, and No. 487 from Syria), two, Nos. 667 and 310, are referable to *Aedon familiaris*, and the third, No. 487, is referable to *Aedon galactodes*. Besides these we examined

in the Hemp. & Ehr. collection three specimens from Abyssinia, types of *Aedon minor*, Cab., and four from Egypt, all of which we find to agree closely with *Aedon galactodes*.

CURRUCA LANGUIDA, Ehr. fol. cc, is a good species, identical with *Hypolais upcheri*, Tristr., and will stand as *Hypolais languida* (Ehr.). There is only one specimen in the collection, from Syria, which measures culmen 0·62 inch, wing 2·95, tail 2·43, tarsus 0·92.

CURRUCA ORPHEA, var. *HELENA*, Ehr. fol. cc, differs from our common European *Sylvia orphea* in having a longer bill, and is the eastern form of that species (*Sylvia jerdoni*). There are in the collection three specimens, measuring as follows :—

	Culmen. in.	Wing. in.	Tail. in.	Tarsus. in.
No. 453. Syria.....	0·71	3·1	2·6	0·92
454. Arabia	0·75	3·15	2·75	1·02
455. do.	0·74	3·18	2·67	1·0

SAXICOLA VITTATA, Ehr. fol. cc, is an excellent and very distinct species. There is but one specimen, from Moileh, which agrees precisely with the figure of *Saxicola leucolæma*, Antin. & Salvad. Att. R. Accad. Sci. Tor. viii. p. 32 & pl. (1872).

SAXICOLA ERYTHRÆA, Ehr. fol. cc. There is but one specimen in the collection, from Arabia, in immature plumage, agreeing closely with the type of *S. halophila*, Tristr. It is labelled *Saxicola lugens*, Licht. For full particulars respecting this species, *vide* Dresser, 'Birds of Europe,' part xxv.

CURRUCA FUSCA, Ehr. fol. cc, agrees with ordinary typical specimens of *Acrocephalus streperus* (Vieill.).

CURRUCA NANA, Ehr. fol. cc. The types from Tor and Djeddah agree with *Sylvia delicatula*, Hartl. (Ibis, 1859, p. 340, pl. x.), which name will accordingly sink into a synonym.

CURRUCA PLATYSTOMA, Ehr. fol. cc. There is but one specimen, from Arabia, in the collection, which is undistinguishable from *Phylloscopus bonellii*, Vieill., Gray, Hand-list, no. 3033.

CURRUCA LEUCOMELÆNA, Ehr. fol. cc, resembles the young of *Sylvia rueppelli*, except in the arrangement of the quills, and may probably be referable to that species. There is but one specimen, from Arabia, in the collection, in very abraded plumage and wanting the outer tail-feather on each side. It measures culmen 0.59 inch, wing 2.75, tail 2.55, tarsus 0.83; the first long primary measures about 0.8 inch shorter than the second in one, and 0.85 in the other wing, and is about 0.6 inch longer than the wing-coverts; the third is 0.25 shorter than the fourth, which is about equal with the fifth and sixth; the seventh, eighth, and ninth quills are wanting in both wings; the secondaries reach to within about 0.2 of the end of the wing.

ANTHUS BRACHYCENTRUS, Ehr. fol. dd, = *Anthus campestris*, Gray, Hand-list, no. 3635. There is but one specimen (No. 34), from Gumfudde, in the collection, which measures culmen 0.68 inch, wing 3.35, tail 2.78, tarsus 0.95, hind toe with claw 0.75.

SPHENURA SQUAMICEPS, Ehr. fol. dd, = *Crateropus squamiceps*, Rüpp., Gray, Hand-list, no. 4144. There are in the collection two specimens, both from Arabia, one having been obtained near Mecca.

SPHENURA ERYTHROPTERA, Ehr. fol. dd, = *Telephonus erythropterus* (Shaw), Gray, Hand-list, no. 6052. In the collection are only two specimens, from Abyssinia, which are labelled *Lanius frenatus*, Licht.

SAXICOLA XANTHOPRYMNA, Ehr. fol. dd, is a young bird of *Saxicola erythropygia*, Taylor (Ibis, 1867, p. 61), which name will accordingly drop into a synonym. This species was described by Dresser (B. of Eur. part xvi.) under the name of *Saxicola mæsta*, Licht., which latter, however, we ascertained, on examining the type, to be the species usually known as *S. philothamna*, Tristr. There is but one specimen, from Nubia, in the collection.

SYLVIA TITES, β . CAMPYLONYX, Ehr. fol. dd. There is but

one specimen, from Nubia, in the collection, which is a female or young male of *Ruticilla titys*.

SYLVIA MESOLEUCA, Ehr. fol. ee, is a distinct species from *Ruticilla phœnicurus*, differing chiefly in having a white patch on the wing, and approaches very closely to, if it is not identical with, *Ruticilla hodgsoni*, Moore (P. Z. S. 1854, p. 26, pl. lviii.). There is but one specimen, from Djedda, of which it may not be out of place to give the following description:—Forehead, lores, ear-coverts, sides of neck, throat, and upper part of the breast glossy black; a broad white frontal band behind the black forehead; crown, nape, and mantle blackish or dusky slate; rump and upper tail-coverts rusty red; rectrices rather darker red, the two central ones with the inner web, except at the base, and the outer web dusky; quills blackish brown, all excepting the first edged with white on the central portion of the outer web, forming a patch about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch in length, the white margin being largest on the innermost quills; lower parts from the throat ferruginous red, deepest on the breast, and palest on the lower tail-coverts, and whitish in the centre of the abdomen; lower wing-coverts rusty red. Culmen 0.51 inch, wing 3.16, tail 2.4, tarsus 0.85.

Of *Ruticilla phœnicurus*, in the Hemprich and Ehrenberg collection there are an adult and a young bird from Nubia, one from Syria, and one from Arabia.

SYLVIA LYPURA, Ehr. fol. ee. The type, a young bird from Abyssinia, is certainly an immature specimen of *Cercomela melanura* (Rüpp.), Gray, Hand-list, no. 3242.

In conclusion we must express our extreme appreciation of the very ready manner in which Dr. Cabanis gave us access to the collection and rendered us every assistance in his power, permitting us to enter the museum at all hours, and giving us duplicate keys to the cases, so that we could take out and examine the types at our leisure.